

hundreds of troops from Northern Ireland are there now playing a very crucial role.

I compliment the chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and the original cosponsors, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for all their years of firm dedication to peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and for leading the way on H.R. 1208, now before us.

Now more than ever, as we reach the possibility of the end game in the north of Ireland of lasting peace and justice, the U.S. contribution to the IFI must be maintained, yet somewhat refocused. We need IFI to address new needs as we set about cementing the peace. Besides just economic development through cross-community job projects, which is still very important, we also need the IFI to play an increasing role in more direct reconciliation efforts.

The bill sets out a reasonable and workable spending formula, 20 percent direct reconciliation versus 80 percent economic development, for the use of U.S. contributions to the IFI. This expenditure formula will help refocus the U.S. monies to meet new requirements and challenges.

The Good Friday agreement was not around when the IFI was founded in 1986; and no one envisioned then, for example, a new acceptable, as well as accountable, police service in the north and many other changes that are now a reality.

Another good example of the IFI's new role, as Mark Durkin, the leader of SDLP pointed out to me just a few weeks ago, is helping in the transitional use of former British military bases and prisons being closed, changing those into housing projects, shopping centers, and industrial parks. IFI needs to be helpful in brokering deals on the peaceful use of these old military sites, once the very symbols of the "troubles." This is truly turning swords into plowshares, and the IFI can and should help.

H.R. 1208 specifically requires the IFI to spend 20 percent of our contribution to help support programs that enhance direct reconciliation between both communities, and between police and all the communities they serve in the north. The IFI under the bill is encouraged to promote human rights training for police, enhance mediation efforts in interface areas of continuing conflict, and to promote training of the new cross-community district police partnership boards in the north.

These new reconciliation efforts will soon ensure the future of the north and the security of these warm and generous people and their elected leaders under the established power-sharing institutions of the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge full support by the House of H.R. 1208.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) for his longstanding leadership on behalf of peace and justice and fairness in Northern Ireland. He has been indefatigable over these many years, and he continues to be. I would thank him for his leadership and remind my colleagues of the importance of trying to get the IFI to look further into reconciliation projects and police reform projects.

As I indicated earlier, we have had seven hearings on police reform in Northern Ireland with a focus on what the United States can do to try to foster that, so there is total transparency, and the best type of methods used by police with human rights training being part of that. It has become very clear that this would help to advance that kind of understanding between the two communities. Those barriers need to be broken down. We do it by getting both communities working together.

We are, I think, or many of us, very encouraged that Hugh Orde is the new chief constable. He replaces a man that many of us had very serious disagreements with in the past, and our hope is that he will continue and even accelerate the pace of reform. This helps to build under him additional strong Earth and concrete, and a base for him to go forward.

This bill has worked; this law has worked; and the IFI, the International Fund for Ireland, has worked for many years to foster reconciliation. This bill gives it an additional push and would provide \$25 million authorization for each of the next 2 years.

Again, I want to thank all Members for their support. It is a bipartisan bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Northern Ireland Peace and Reconciliation Support Act.

As we all know, the peace process in Northern Ireland is at a critical juncture and now is not the time to decrease funding for a critical program such as the International Fund for Ireland.

The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent, international organization by the British and Irish Governments in 1986, and receives contributions from the United States, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The International Fund for Ireland is so important because it promotes economic and social advance and encourages contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists throughout Ireland.

This is a proven program that successfully brings together two groups and teaches them to work together and helps to foster friendships and understanding.

Dialogue is a key tool to lead to the decommissioning of all parties, a fair police force and a feeling of unity and peace in Ireland.

That is why I am concerned about the significant cut to the International Fund for Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Peace and Reconciliation Support Act will authorize \$25 million in funding for the International Fund for Ireland, which will match the funding level provided by Congress in the Fiscal Year 2003 not the current request of \$8 million.

Now is not the time to decrease this program and I urge all members to support the Northern Ireland Peace and Reconciliation Support Act.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1208, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, NATIVE ALASKANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1166) to amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Business Development Centers to Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1166

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Approximately 60 percent of Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans live on or adjacent to Indian lands, which suffer from an average unemployment rate of 45 percent.

(2) Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans own more than 197,000 businesses and generate more than \$34,000,000,000 in revenues. The service industry accounted for 17 percent of these businesses (of which 40 percent were engaged in business and personal services) and 15.1 percent of their total receipts. The next largest was the construction industry (13.9 percent and 15.7 percent, respectively). The third largest was the retail trade industry (7.5 percent and 13.4 percent, respectively).

(3) The number of businesses owned by Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans grew by 84 percent from 1992 to 1997, and their gross receipts grew by 179 percent in that period. This is compared to all businesses which grew by 7 percent, and their total gross receipts grew by 40 percent, in that period.

(4) The Small Business Development Center program is cost effective. Clients receiving long-term counseling under the program in 1998 generated additional tax revenues of \$468,000,000, roughly 6 times the cost of the program to the Federal Government.

(5) Using the existing infrastructure of the Small Business Development Center program, small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians receiving services under the program will have a higher survival rate than the average small business not receiving such services.

(6) Business counseling and technical assistance is critical on Indian lands where similar services are scarce and expensive.

(7) Increased assistance through counseling under the Small Business Development Center program has been shown to reduce the default rate associated with lending programs of the Small Business Administration.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To stimulate economies on Indian lands.

(2) To foster economic development on Indian lands.

(3) To assist in the creation of new small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians and expand existing ones.

(4) To provide management, technical, and research assistance to small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

(5) To seek the advice of local Tribal Councils on where small business development assistance is most needed.

(6) To ensure that Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians have full access to existing business counseling and technical assistance available through the Small Business Development Center program.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, NATIVE ALASKANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) ADDITIONAL GRANT TO ASSIST INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, NATIVE ALASKANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any applicant in an eligible State that is funded by the Administration as a Small Business Development Center may apply for an additional grant to be used solely to provide services described in subsection (c)(3) to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

“(B) ELIGIBLE STATES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), an eligible State is a State that has a combined population of Indian tribe members, Natives Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians that comprises at least 1 percent of the State’s total population, as shown by the latest available census.

“(C) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall submit to the Associate Administrator an application that is in such form as the Associate Administrator may require. The application shall include information regarding the applicant’s goals and objectives for the services to be provided using the grant, including—

“(i) the capability of the applicant to provide training and services to a representative number of Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians;

“(ii) the location of the Small Business Development Center site proposed by the applicant;

“(iii) the required amount of grant funding needed by the applicant to implement the program; and

“(iv) the extent to which the applicant has consulted with local Tribal Councils.

“(D) APPLICABILITY OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—An applicant for a grant under sub-

paragraph (A) shall comply with all of the requirements of this section, except that the matching funds requirements of paragraph (4)(A) shall not apply.

“(E) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 in grants under this paragraph in a fiscal year.

“(F) REGULATIONS.—After providing notice and an opportunity for comment and after consulting with the Association recognized by the Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(A) (but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph), the Administrator shall issue final regulations to carry out this paragraph, including regulations that establish—

“(i) standards relating to educational, technical, and support services to be provided by Small Business Development Centers receiving assistance under this paragraph; and

“(ii) standards relating to any work plan that the Associate Administrator may require a Small Business Development Center receiving assistance under this paragraph to develop.

“(G) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the following definitions apply:

“(i) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Associate Administrator’ means the Associate Administrator for Small Business Development Centers.

“(ii) INDIAN LANDS.—The term ‘Indian lands’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian country’ in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code, the meaning given the term ‘Indian reservation’ in section 151.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph), and the meaning given the term ‘reservation’ in section 4 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1903).

“(iii) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given such term in section 8(a)(13).

“(iv) INDIAN TRIBE MEMBER.—The term ‘Indian tribe member’ means a member of an Indian tribe (other than a Native Alaskan).

“(v) NATIVE ALASKAN.—The term ‘Native Alaskan’ has the meaning given the term ‘Native’ in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)).

“(vi) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term ‘Native Hawaiian’ means any individual who is a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.

“(H) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006.

“(I) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Funding under this paragraph shall be in addition to the dollar program limitations specified in paragraph (4).

“(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The Administration may carry out this paragraph only with amounts appropriated in advance specifically to carry out this paragraph.”.

SEC. 3. STATE CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL TRIBAL COUNCILS.

Section 21(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) ADVICE OF LOCAL TRIBAL COUNSELS.—A State receiving grants under this section shall request the advice of local Tribal Councils on how best to provide assistance to Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the

gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1166 is identical to legislation the House passed unanimously December 5, 2001. Unfortunately, this bill did not pass the Senate last year. We are here today to try again.

This bill simply establishes a 3-year pilot program providing grants to the Small Business Development Centers for assisting Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiian populations with their small business development needs.

Few people realize that 60 percent of our Native American population lives in or adjacent to Indian lands that suffer from an average unemployment rate of 45 percent. One-third of Native Americans live below the poverty level. However, the number of businesses owned by Native Americans grew by 84 percent between 1998 and 1997, as compared to all other businesses, which grew at only 7 percent over the same time period.

It is quite clear that the entrepreneurial spirit of Native American small business ownership is the key to economic growth and revitalization of these often forgotten communities. Instead of creating a new program, H.R. 1166 uses the existing Small Business Development Center network to develop culturally sensitive entrepreneurial counseling and technical assistance programs for Native Americans.

The SBDC network has a track record of success. Small businesses that use their service have a higher survival rate than the average small businesses not receiving such assistance. Any SBDC in a State whose Native American population is at least 1 percent of the State’s total population can apply for a grant from the SBA. Such grants must be used to provide SBDC program assistance to Native Americans. The maximum grant size is \$300,000 and the authorized level is capped at \$7 million per year.

Already this fiscal year, the Small Business Administration received a \$2 million appropriation to develop Native American entrepreneur education programs. I join many of my colleagues, including the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), who is an original cosponsor of this bill, in supporting H.R. 1166.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), chairman of the Committee on Small Business, and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), for their work and commitment to expanding small business opportunities for all Americans and for working to bring this bill to the floor today.

I would also like to thank the staff members of the committee for their hard work on this legislation and my colleagues who supported this bill by joining me as cosponsors.

The important legislation before us today, H.R. 1166, allows Small Business Development Centers to apply for an additional Small Business Administration grant to provide specified services to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business start-ups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribal members, Alaskan Natives, or Native Hawaiians.

This legislation ensures participation of governing bodies of Indian tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Under H.R. 1166, States receiving a Small Business Development Center program grant are required to request advice from the appropriate governmental organization on how best to provide assistance to such members and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance. Our intent is to ensure these business development tools are provided in a culturally sensitive way.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses create 75 percent of all new employment opportunities, make up 99 percent of all employers, and provide almost half of all sales in this country. As many of us have said before and will say again, small businesses are the fuel for the engine of economic development. That is why it is so imperative that we take steps to help ensure that small business development reaches the places in this country where economic prosperity has yet to be realized.

The current economic situation on Native American lands is very grave. However, it does hold promise for the future. The average unemployment rate of these lands is over 10 times the national average. At the same time, small business creation is at an all-time high. Native American and Native Alaskan-owned small businesses grew by 84 percent from 1992 to 1997, and their gross receipts grew by 179 percent in that same time period.

Compare those figures to an overall small business growth rate of 7 percent and to the gross receipt growth of 40 percent, and we can see why there is reason to be optimistic about the future of small business development on tribal lands.

It is with these facts in mind and the desire to help Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian entre-

preneurs capitalize on these positive developments that I introduce this legislation. My bill ensures that Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians seeking to create, develop, and expand small businesses have full access to the counseling and technical assistance available through the SBA's SBDC program. The business development tools offered by the SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

In an effort to ensure the quality and success of the program, the proposal requires the SBA to include several items in the grant application.

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In addition to the obvious requirements like requiring the applicant's goals and objectives, we also must see the applicant's experience in conducting programs on ongoing efforts designed to assist the business skills of small business owners. Also the capability of such applicant to provide training and services to a representative number of Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians is also important to this process.

I have the great honor of representing 14 Pueblos, the Hickory Apache Nation, and a portion of the Navajo Nation. These communities are in great need of economic development, and it is clear we can do more to aid Native American entrepreneurs not only in my district but throughout the country as well. Not enough has been done to assist Native Americans in building their businesses. I hope to change this situation with the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1166, a bill to authorize the administration of grants to local small business development centers in States with significant populations of Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians. The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) has carefully crafted this important legislation to address poverty and unemployment amongst those disadvantaged populations. I commend the gentleman and the House Committee on Small Business for focusing on the sizable socioeconomic problems faced by Native Americans.

H.R. 1166 will enable small business development centers to assist Native Americans with job creation and economic growth. This measure will help foster self-determination among groups that have been historically marginalized by the Federal Government. This bill helps individuals to utilize their own valuable business skills so that their small business, and in turn their community, may prosper.

I am in such strong support of the aims of H.R. 1166 that I believe the bill can be strengthened by expanding the

eligible grant recipients to include small business development centers that work with the indigenous populations of Guam and American Samoa. Chamorros and Samoans from U.S. territories endure economic adversity similar to that experienced by Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that either in conference on this legislation, or on a similar proposal, that we take action to address the small business development needs of the indigenous populations of the United States territories.

This bill gives real assistance to Native Americans, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage and to support economic development for all indigenous populations throughout the United States.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we thank the gentlewoman for her service on the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) who also serves on the Committee on Small Business and is a hardworking member on that committee.

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for his work on this legislation and thank him.

I rise in very strong support for this legislation because this bill perfectly melds two objectives that we want to accomplish here in our Congress. The first, of course, is to support small business. We all know and the gentleman has outlined how strong small business can be. It is the backbone of our economy. It is where much of innovation in our country comes from, and it is an area where the need for coordination is great. In my own State of Hawaii almost all of the businesses are small business-related, and they have the same needs as throughout the rest of our country to coordinate those efforts. And this is an area in which the Federal Government's assistance is so well received because of the return on investment, a return on investment of roughly six times the amount invested in these small business development centers, returns to the bottom line in terms of increased tax revenue and employment.

The second goal, of course, is the goal of improving the lot of our indigenous peoples, whether they be Native Americans or Native Hawaiians. I think we all know that the route to improving the lot of our indigenous people lies through self-sufficiency. And my own belief, and this legislation makes very clear that the belief of most of us, is that the way to do that is through encouraging economic activity. So to the extent that we can encourage that economic activity, we can take the situation that many of our indigenous people find ourselves in, especially Native Hawaiians in my home

State and improve their lot, improve their self-sufficiency, take them off the rolls, whether they be the health care rolls, the welfare rolls. This is the way too for us to go. This is money well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and commend the gentleman again for introducing this legislation and I certainly hope we can pass this expeditiously.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE). He is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Agriculture, and Technology.

(Mr. BALLANCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored this evening to join with my colleagues on this important issue.

A careful reading of history reminds us that the first Americans, whom we now call Native Americans and sometimes we call Indians, those whose ancestors walked the Trail of Tears, part of which is in my native State of North Carolina, those who suffered through broken promises from our government, and even as we stand here today in combat in Federal court with our Department of Interior over how to account for funds derived from lands that America allegedly set aside for Native Americans, we all know how important small businesses are all over our Nation and in every community, where they make up 75 percent of new employment and, by some figures, more than 90 percent of all new employers.

The average unemployment rate of Native Americans, particularly those on the reservation, languishes today around 45 percent. That is unacceptable in modern America, when we keep in mind that the national unemployment rate in February of this year was 5.8 percent. Even more alarming, one-third of Native Americans currently live below the poverty line. And so that is why I am honored to stand with my colleagues in support of this important legislation which I understand was introduced and went forward last year but did not make it all the way. We are hopeful that we can pass this legislation in the House of Representatives and it can become law.

Native American small businesses grew at a rate of 84 percent over the last 5 years. And we not only have a legal, I think, responsibility, but we have a moral responsibility to ensure that this trend continues to ensure that we make efforts to right past wrongs, and for selfish reasons, to ensure that in our country that every segment of our community has an opportunity for its young people to move forward and to enjoy the American dream. I am strongly in support of this legislation and I urge my colleagues to pass it.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) has no further speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers. I reserve my right to close.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for his management of this bill and for his hard work here on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Small Business and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for their commitment to passing this important legislation. I have high hopes for the impact of this legislation and the impact it will have on small business and economic development on tribal lands.

As some of my colleagues have mentioned today, the average unemployment rate of Native American communities, particularly on reservations, is around 45 percent, while one-third of Native Americans currently live below the Nation's poverty level. Mr. Speaker, this situation is unacceptable.

The persistent poverty that is prevalent on tribal lands must come to an end, and I believe that passing H.R. 1166 is an important step towards achieving this goal. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

And just one moment before I yield back, let me also thank the committee staff, my former legislative director, Tony Martinez; my legislative assistant, Mike Collins; and Michael Day, the minority staff director of the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would close by first commending and congratulating the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for his hard work on this legislation and his support for the small business men and women across America. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for her support on H.R. 1166. And I finally want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman Manzullo) for his leadership and his passion for defending the backbone of the American economy and that is small business.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that we were able to expeditiously move this legislation on the floor today. This bill is identical to legislation this House unanimously approved on December 5, 2001. It is unfortunate that the Senate was unable to take this legislation up on the Senate floor last year but we are here today to try again.

The purpose of H.R. 1166 is to create jobs, to spur entrepreneurship, and to stimulate the economies and foster economic development on Indian lands. Further, the purpose of the Act is to help in the creation of new small businesses owned and managed by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians and to help expand such small

businesses that already exist. The Act will provide much needed management, technical, and research assistance to small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians. The Act will help insure that Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians have full access to existing counseling and technical assistance provided through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program. In providing entrepreneurial assistance, a State receiving a grant under the provisions of the Act is required to seek the advice of local Tribal Councils on where small business development assistance is needed.

Approximately 60 percent of Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans live on or in the immediate vicinity of Indian lands and suffer from an average unemployment rate of 45 percent. Currently, Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans own more than 197,000 business enterprises and generate revenues in excess of \$34 billion.

The service industry, the largest sector, accounts for 17 percent of the businesses, and 15.7 percent of the total revenues. The second largest sector is construction, which accounts for 13.9 percent of the businesses and 15.7 percent of the total revenues. The third largest sector, the retail trades, accounts for 7.5 percent of the businesses and 13.4 percent of the total revenues.

The number of businesses owned by Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans grew by 84 percent during the period from 1992 to 1997, while businesses, generally, grew by only seven percent. During the same period, the gross receipts for Indian tribe members and Native Alaskan business owners increased by 179 percent, in comparison with the business community, as a whole, where the gross receipts for the same period grew only by 40 percent.

In the past, the SBDC program with more than 1,100 offices throughout the United States has provided cost-effective business counseling and technical assistance to small businesses. For example, clients receiving long-term counseling under the program in 1998 generated additional tax revenues of \$468 million, which was approximately six times the cost of the program to the Federal government.

By using the existing infrastructure of the SBDC program, it is anticipated that small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians, who receive services under the Act, will have a higher survival rate than the average small businesses not receiving such services. Further, increased assistance through SBDC counseling has in the past been able to reduce defaults under Small Business Administration (SBA) lending programs.

The business counseling and technical assistance, provided for under this Act, is critical on Indian land where, without such assistance, similar services are scarce and expensive. Past and current efforts by SBDCs to assist Native American populations located on or along reservation lands have proven difficult. In addition, the lack of resources makes it difficult to raise an equal amount of matching funds to specifically assist Native Americans.

H.R. 1166 will establish a three-year pilot project providing grants to SBDCs for assisting Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiian populations with their entrepreneurial needs. The purpose is to stimulate

the economies on reservation lands through the creation and expansion of small businesses by ensuring the target population has full access to important business counseling and technical assistance through the SBDC program.

Any SBDC in a State, whose Indian tribe members, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian populations are one percent of the State's total population, can apply for a grant from the SBA. Such grants must be used to provide SBDC program assistance to Native Americans. Grants under the Act are limited to \$300,000 and the amount authorized to be appropriated annually, in each of the fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006, is \$7 million. No matching funds are required from the States.

Services by SBDCs are to be provided to benefit the target population on tribal lands and reservations, but an individual center need not be located on each tribal land location or reservation. If the target population is in more than one location or reservation within a State, the center should be situated in a location that optimizes access by all those serviced by the center. H.R. 1166 does not limit in any way, the number of centers or subcenters a state program may implement. I expect the SBA Administrator to balance the need for multiple sites with the quality of assistance and counseling when awarding grants. Consultation with the local Tribal Council is required in determining those locations in most need and where the best access may be attained.

SBA is responsible for designing the grant application, which should provide essential information, but should not be burdensome to applicants. At a minimum, the application should contain information concerning the applicant's (1) goals and objectives, (2) prior experience in providing entrepreneurial and technical assistance to small businesses, (3) the ability to provide training and services to Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians, and (4) the extent of consultation with local Tribal Councils. In addition, the applicant should identify the location of a proposed center, and the amount of funding required.

Within 180 days after the enactment of H.R. 1166, the SBA Administrator is required to issue final regulations, after a notice and comment period, that implement the requirements of the Act. Such regulations shall include standards for the educational, technical, and support services to be provided and for a work plan for providing assistance to the targeted community.

The Act's predecessor, H.R. 2538, was subject to a hearing and a committee mark-up in the 107th Congress. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that implementing the bill would cost \$20 million over the next four years and contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates. H.R. 2538 also unanimously passed the House on December 5, 2001 but unfortunately saw no action on the Senate floor, even though a companion bill was discussed and marked-up in the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. That's why I am pleased to join again with my good friend from New Mexico, in co-sponsoring H.R. 1166 in this Congress and seeing it pass the House yet once again. Hopefully, the other body will look more kindly upon the legislation this year.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1166, a bill to en-

hance the capacity of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) to provide assistance to Native American tribal members, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. I would like to commend my colleague and friend, Representative TOM UDALL, for his work on, once again, bringing this important legislation to the floor.

SBDCs are the premier technical assistance providers to America's entrepreneurs. Many small businesses often operate near or at their profit margin and do not have additional resources to hire legal or technical experts. Research shows that small businesses that receive technical assistance are twice as likely to succeed in the marketplace than those that do not. In addition to providing technical assistance to the general small business community, SBDCs should also target that segment of our population with special and unique needs.

The Native American population is one such population. The United States government has an endless commitment to addressing the economic and health disparities of Native Americans. Although we have passed other legislation such as the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, which both encourage self-sufficiency in an attempt to amend the effects of relocation, not enough has been done to ensure success of economic development within this community. That is why I support this bill. The "Native American Small Business Development Act" (NASBD) will allow Native Americans to strengthen and expand their small business infrastructure. This would also provide more stable employment and move closer to ending the desperate and disparate conditions on reservations. More importantly, this bill will allow Native American entrepreneurs to better utilize the current SBDC network.

The Native American population represents a disadvantaged and underserved segment of our nation. One-third of Native Americans currently live below the nation's poverty level and suffer from the highest rate in health disparities. Despite these difficulties, Native American small businesses grew at a rate of 84 percent over the last five years. But with technical assistance specifically geared toward meeting the unique needs of this population, we can create a more prosperous economic community in the Native American population, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

This legislation passed the House of Representatives in the previous Congress with strong bipartisan support but failed to reach the Senate floor last year. I remain in support of this legislation and committed to seeing its complete passage.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1166.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1463, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 58, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1166, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SMALLPOX EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1463.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1463, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 206, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—184

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|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aderholt | Brown (SC) | DeLay |
| Akin | Brown-Waite, | Diaz-Balart, L. |
| Bachus | Ginny | Diaz-Balart, M. |
| Ballenger | Burgess | Doolittle |
| Barrett (SC) | Burns | Dreier |
| Bartlett (MD) | Burton (IN) | Dunn |
| Barton (TX) | Calvert | Emerson |
| Bass | Cannon | Feeney |
| Beauprez | Cantor | Ferguson |
| Biggart | Carter | Forbes |
| Billirakis | Chabot | Fossella |
| Bishop (UT) | Chocola | Franks (AZ) |
| Blackburn | Coble | Frelinghuysen |
| Blunt | Cole | Garrett (NJ) |
| Boehner | Cox | Gerlach |
| Bonilla | Crane | Gibbons |
| Bonner | Crenshaw | Gilchrest |
| Bono | Cubin | Gingrey |
| Boozman | Culberson | Goode |
| Bradley (NH) | Davis, Jo Ann | Goodlatte |
| Brady (TX) | Deal (GA) | Goss |